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Chief, St/I/HR

26 December 1956

THRU : Chief, D/S  
Acting Chief, S/TC

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Requirement for Sources of [REDACTED] 25X1A2g

BACKGROUND

1. Subject report is of great interest to this office. During 1956 it is believed that sizeable quantities of cobalt have been diverted to the Soviet Bloc through Switzerland. Although it is possible that the cobalt mentioned in [REDACTED] was of Belgian origin, it is more likely that the cobalt was of Norwegian origin and was acquired and shipped via the Netherlands and Belgium to Switzerland by the method described in [REDACTED]. By this method the cobalt enters (and probably leaves) Belgium declared as "metalware". This fits in with the statement in [REDACTED] that "it is believed that the shipper wished to export the cobalt as unidentified metal scrap".

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REQUIREMENT

2. In regard to the shipment of 2000 kilograms of cobalt, provide, if possible, details of origin, documentation, routing, method and date of transportation; names of all suppliers, middlemen, transport firms and banks involved; and value of the shipment.

3. Was the shipment of 2000 kilograms of cobalt stopped by the Swiss authorities or was it allowed to proceed to the Soviet Bloc?

4. By what method was the shipment discovered by the Swiss authorities.

5. In regard to paragraph 5, this office has been unable to identify the Compagnie des Metaux et Minerais. Did the source confuse the name of the Brussels firm with the Societe Minerais et Metaux, Paris, a firm which deals in cobalt? Does source think the Societe Generale des Minerais, a firm which probably controls

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SUBJECT: Requirement for Sources of CS-105758

the sale of all cobalt produced in Belgium, sold the cobalt?

6. Provide details, as outlined in paragraph 2, of other cobalt shipments of which sources may have knowledge.

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[REDACTED]

Distribution:

Orig. and 1 - Addressee  
3 - S/TC  
1 - D/S

RR/D/S/TC: [REDACTED] /ggm/8428. (27 Dec. 56)

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